

## **AmeriCorps CARE Child Care Benefits Program**

### **FACT SHEET**

The AmeriCorps CARE Child Care Program was created in recognition of the fact that affordable child care is a must for many working parents. The AmeriCorps® National Service Project, through which 20,000 members across the country exchange at least one year of community service for educational awards, is comparable to a domestic peace corps. Members work in any number of places, from, which have traditionally relied on, volunteer help. In return for their work, members receive a the American Red Cross to the Task Force for the Homeless, and other community service organizations living stipend throughout their time of service, a health care benefit, and an educational award at the end of their completed service. This educational award can be used either to pay college tuition or pay back college loans.

During their time with AmeriCorps, full-time members have available to them a child care subsidy. In order to receive the subsidy, **the member's family must be income-eligible and the child (ren)'s caregiver must be considered a legal provider in the state.** For a definition of legal provider, contact your state licensing agency, resource and referral agency, or an AmeriCorps CARE child care coordinator. At no time will AmeriCorps CARE pays a provider that the state does not consider legal, or reimburse a parent for paying such a provider. Members are not eligible if they are receiving another child care subsidy.

AmeriCorps CARE child care benefits are administered through the office of NACCRRRA, the **Nation's Network for Child Care Resource and Referral** in Washington, DC. AmeriCorps CARE will pay the amount the caregiver is charging; up to the market rate for child care in that area as established by the Child Care Development Fund market survey. There is no national market rate – the amount AmeriCorps CARE will pay depends on the state and county where the care is provided, the age of the child, the type of provider and how much they charge, and the number oh hours of care. These market rates are established by the individual states, and therefore differ widely.

There is no fee for the parents unless the provider is charging more that the market rate. If the parent must pay for some portion of care, the parent and caregiver sign a waiver which releases AmeriCorps CARE from responsibility of the additional money, and the terms of payment are settled by the caregiver and parent.

In order for a caregiver to be paid, the AmeriCorps Member must complete an eligibility application and a caregiver registration and information form. The caregiver registration and information form functions as a contract between the caregiver and the member, and must be completed and signed by the member, his/her child's caregiver, and his/her program director. The member receives a child care attendance coupon booklet with one page for each month of the service year. The caregiver and parent must complete and sign a coupon at the end of each month. Payments are made once a month directly to the caregiver after the coupon is received. A full-time member is eligible for child care reimbursement from the day he/she begins her service and/or develops a need for child care.